

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Concerning the
Triennial Review
of the
WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR THE NORTH COAST REGION

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) is proposing to update the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan). The Regional Water Board will hold a public hearing on the date set forth below for the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. At that hearing the Board will consider adoption of a prioritized list of Basin Plan amendment projects to be addressed over the next three years.

BACKGROUND

The North Coast Region encompasses watersheds from the Oregon state border to the Estero de San Antonio, that drain to the Pacific Ocean, and includes Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties and portions of Siskiyou, Sonoma, Glenn, Modoc, Lake and Marin counties. The Basin Plan describes beneficial uses for watersheds in the North Coast Region, and establishes water quality objectives and programs to protect those beneficial uses. State and federal law require that the Basin Plan be reviewed at least once each three-year period to accommodate changes in technologies, policies, and physical characteristics of the planning areas. As part of that review, the Regional Water Board holds public hearings to allow the public to identify issues, and, in part, based upon that input, develops and adopts by resolution a priority list and schedule of needed Basin Plan revisions for the next three-year period.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Based on previous stakeholder comments, coordination with the statewide Basin Planning Roundtable, and a review of regulatory program needs, Regional Water Board staff has identified a number of Basin Plan amendments necessary to help the Regional Water Board best address water quality planning needs. These potential Basin Plan amendment projects are summarized in the Initial Staff Report for the Triennial Review dated June 18, 2007. This document can be viewed / downloaded from the Regional Water Board website located at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/bptr.html>

Regional Water Board staff held a public workshop in Yreka on July 25, 2007 to solicit comments regarding the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan. Regional Water Board staff is requesting additional public input on these proposed Basin Plan amendments and the priority those projects should be given, as well as any new issues the public would like to raise regarding the adequacy of the Basin Plan and need for revision. All comments received at the workshop on July 25th and all written comments received by August 31, 2007 are being considered during the compilation of the priority list, which will be released as part of the final Staff Report and Workplan. This document will be released by September 14, 2007 and will be posted to the Regional Water Board's website, Basin Planning page (see link above).

The public comment period will remain open until September 21, 2007. Written comments regarding Basin Plan amendments that the Regional Water Board should consider and the priority those projects should be given during the Triennial Review process must be submitted to the staff contact listed below. In response to additional public comments received by September 21, 2007, Regional Water Board staff may revise the proposed priority list prior to the public hearing.

STAFF CONTACT

Lauren Clyde
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A revised version of the Triennial Review Worksheet (Appendix 3 to the June 18, 2007 Initial Staff Report) is available to assist the public in determining their highest priorities. Two additional issues have been added to the initial Worksheet (turbidity objectives and exemption criteria for restoration projects). This document can also be found on the Regional Water Board website basin planning page (see link to web page listed above).

Public Hearing

The Regional Water Board will hold a Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Triennial Review Workplan and Priority List as follows:

Date

October 25, 2007

Time

8:30 a.m. (or as soon thereafter as practicable). Please check the official Board Meeting Agenda posted on the Regional Water Board's website at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast

Location

Best Western Weaverville
Victorian Inn Conference Room
1709 Main Street
Weaverville, California

Regional Water Board staff encourages interested parties to obtain relevant project documents at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/programs/basinplan/bptr.html>. Public participation is an important part of this process. All comments received will become part of the public record. For the sake of the accuracy of the record, written copies of oral comments are requested. If deemed necessary, the Regional Water Board may hold a continuation of the public hearing on the Triennial Review at the December Board Meeting.

ACCESSIBILITY

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Jean Lockett, Executive Assistant, at (707) 576-2307, at least five days prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. The hearing location is accessible to persons with disabilities. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Robert R. Klamt
Interim Executive Officer

August 28, 2007